

GOSHEN BOARD FINANCE  
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan D. Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Allan D. Walker, James Korner, Ned Bixler and Scott Tillmann, Edward Davidson, Richard Reis, James Korner, Russell Hurley, George Zeidenstein

Also present: First Selectman Robert Valentine, Chris Sanders, Patricia Sanders, Michele Fitzpatrick, Arline McCarthy, Frank McCarthy, Marty Harris, Mark Harris, Joanne Brogis, Roger Brogis, Richard Benoit, Simon Ellis, Deborah Ellis, Charles Waiveris. Samantha Glass, Rhydian Glass, Bill Nolte and John McKenna

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: IN A MOTION MADE BY Ned Bixler, SECONDED BY James Korner, it was VOTED to approve the May 25, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.

Chairman Allan Walker stated that the board would hear a presentation made by Chris Sanders on behalf of the Lake Weed Management Committee. Following the presentation there would be a discussion for the board to put forward to the town a vote for \$30,000.00 to be appropriated to the Lake Weed Management Committee for addressing the issue of weeds in three public lakes in Goshen, West Side Pond, Tyler Lake and Dog Pond. Selectman Bob Valentine noted that it was about 4 years ago the town formed a Lake Weed Management Committee to address the concerns of the three public lakes of Goshen. All three lakes have been struggling with an invasive aquatic weed problem that has been growing exponentially. The committee was formed so that all three (3) public lakes could have proper representation. The representatives would work together in unison to find measures to resolve and remediate the lakes in order to preserve and maintain their natural and ecological state for all residents to enjoy and appreciate.

The following is a brief overview of Chris Sanders, Power Point presentation:

**GOSHEN'S PUBLIC LAKES AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY RESOURCE.**

There is an immanent need to preserve Dog Pond, West Side Pond and Tyler Lake. They are vital environmental, recreational, economic resources to the Town of Goshen. Presently there are five (5) key threats to Goshen's public lakes that have helped to speed up the natural eutrophication process:

1. Eutrophication: "eutrophication: Noun - excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, which causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen." This is a natural process that takes centuries to happen, however human impact has caused this process to speed up.
2. Invasive aquatic plant infestation: The spread of multiple species mainly transported by boats entering the public launches. The rapid growth and biomass created from it has exponentially increased sediment build up.

3. Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB): From storm water runoff, fertilizers, failing septic systems, natural sources which all produce toxins that can be harmful and deadly.
4. Lack of education: Residents and users of lakes, rain water, detergents, septic systems, property landscaping, pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use, boater maintenance and responsibility.
5. Impact of surrounding environment: Storm water runoff from roadways that have chemicals and herbicides, pesticides, construction projects, land development, and agriculture.

A decline in the quality of the three lakes will lead to a decline in the assessed value of these properties. The presentation went on to show the economic impact the three (3) public lakes represent for the town. Mr. Sanders went on to explain that our three public lakes represent 15% of Goshen's grand list. Adding Woodridge Lake, the four (4) residential lakes in total represent over 50% of Goshen's grand list. As Mr. Sander clearly stated in his presentation: "Unless our lakes are maintained, natural processes will result in a decline of their value and a reduction in the contribution to the tax base." Currently, The Lake Weed Management Committee (LWMC) has hired Dr. George Knoecklein a Limnologist (limnology is the study of the structural, functional organisms in inland waters and their impact on the environment) and his group NEAR (North East Aquatic Research) which has been conducting survey's, water sampling and studies on the aquatic plant population. Through his guidance a strong remediation plan is being created for each lake. All three lakes are planning to engage professionals to address the excessive weed issue. The remedies are expensive; the lake residents have raised monies through donations. Tyler Lake and West Side Pond are forming 501c3 non-profit associations. Dog Pond and West Side Pond have garnered \$26,300 in 2016. Recurring fund raising events are planned, and the pursuits of foundation grants are in place. Town resident financial support is being proposed to help meet the cost overall of \$83,900. The Lake Weed Committee is requesting that the town of Goshen appropriate \$30,000 - (\$10,000 per each lake) which represents 40% of the need. The task is to preserve the quality of the three lakes for generations to come, because this is a "forever" problem.

Chairman Allan Walker commended Mr. Sanders on his presentation and asked if there were any questions or concerns from the board. George Zeidenstein asked if there would be any "conditionality" placed on the funds to which Bob Valentine responded that the LWC had, so far, held their own in getting and maintaining the funds that they had received. He went on to say that he would hate to see too many conditions placed upon the committee when, so far, they have acted responsibly. Just knowing of the great work they have done in the fund raising fiscally for the care and keeping of the lakes should be condition enough. Currently Dog Pond has been working with the town of Goshen and Garret Harlow of Public works on an RFP for the harvesting of 30 acres on D.P. West Side Pond will be planning to work from the same RFP for future plans to do work on their lake. There was some discussion with regards to the ongoing efforts being a "forever project" and that the BOF should at some point create a line item for these funds in the future budget's. Many of the towns in the state have already done so. Dog Pond Resident Joanne Brogis added that they were extremely grateful to the Town of Goshen and the LWMC for all of their efforts and work for our lakes. Chairman

Allan Walker asked the first Selectman Bob Valentine how the \$30,000.00 would be administered; Bob Valentine responded that through the fiscal office the town created a non-lapsing account for donated funds and the residual funds from the \$5,000.00 that the BOF had appropriated along with a \$4,000.00 grant from the State of Conn. The \$5,000.00 had been used for testing equipment and the \$4,000.00 has been spent appropriately for the work NEAR had done. Bob suggested that the board appropriate it through capitol and non-reoccurring funds, so that it can be evenly dispersed to each of the three lakes and it can be kept track of through the auditors. Chairman Allan Walker stated that he felt this was an important issue that should go to a town meeting.

IN A MOTION made by Ned Bixler, seconded by James Korner, it was VOTED to appropriate \$30,000.00 from Un-assigned General Fund Balance to Capital and Non-recurring to be allocated equally between West Side Pond, Tyler Lake and Dog Pond for addressing their weed issues and to recommend the same to town meeting.

#### MOTION CARRIES

Chris Sanders, Patricia Sanders, Michele Fitzpatrick, Arline McCarthy, Frank McCarthy, Marty Harris, Mark Harris, Joanne Brogis, Roger Brogis, Richard Benoit, Simon Ellis, Deborah Ellis, Charles Waiveris. Samantha Glass, Rhydian Glass, Bill Noye and John McKenna left the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

**TAX COLLECTORS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2016:** The Tax Collector report was received and reviewed, no questions or comments. RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

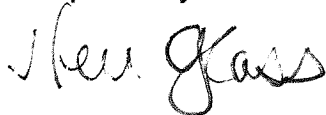
**TRANSFER OF UNCOLLECTABLE UNCOLLECTED PROPERTY TAXES TO THE SUSPENSE TAX BOOK:** A detailed examination has been made by the board of the uncollected taxes, recommending the transfer of certain uncollected taxes to the suspense tax book, this was signed and certified by Chairman Allan Walker. RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR PERIOD ENDING May 31, 2016:** The minutes show the Board receipt and review of the Budget report showing revenue and expenses for the period ending May 31, 2016 as prepared by Financial Consultant Debbie Franklin. First Selectmen Valentine noted that Fire Engine 2 recently needs tires replaced and substantial work on its pump, which is not reflected in the financial report. There were no comments or concerns noted under the Budget report. RECEIVED AND REVIEWED  
**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** Public works has been busy with finishing work up on the west side of Woodridge Lake, including reclaiming, road repair and chip sealing. Public Works will be utilizing funds from the Major Road Projects to rebuild Cottage Grove later this year. Two appropriations were made last night by the Board of Selectmen from the Town Aid Road Funds. One for West Hyerdale Drive paving project in the amount of \$73,338.97 and one for \$103,500.00 for Shelbourne Drive drainage project. Because of favorable costs on previous paving projects the Firehouse parking lot was repaved with 4 inches of asphalt to ensure stability. The Board of Selectmen went out to bid on the Shelbourne Drive drainage project and it was awarded at \$103,500.00. The town has signed a five-year recycling contract with USA Hauling & Recycling. The Governor decreased the State budget by \$20 million in municipal aide

by line item veto. This was done after the town had set its mil rate. As of this time we are not sure where the monies will come from. The State Medical Examiners Office has notified all 169 municipalities that any indigent individuals who die and are brought to the medical examines office will be the responsibility of the municipality where they last resided, because of budget cuts. This is a change to long-standing practice of the Medical Examiner's office handling the indigent in the past. Debbie Franklin is working on contingency adjustments and there will be more numbers to follow, all books are to be closed by July 31<sup>st</sup>, so we may not have all of our numbers ready for the July BOF meeting. Sandy Welwood, the auditor, has notified me that they will begin work on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY** James Korner **SECONDED BY** Ned Bixler,  
The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectively submitted,



Nell Glass  
GOSHEN BOARD OF FINANCE CLERK

Received June 24, 2016 11:48 AM  
Attest Barbara A. Breen  
Goshen Town Clerk